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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1994-1995

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.4

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would:

(a) Decide to establish an ad hoc working group of 25 experts in economics, finance, statistics and related fields;

(b) Invite the President of the General Assembly to appoint the experts in consultation with Member States, with due regard for equitable geographical representation, and to establish the working group as soon as possible;

(c) Decide that the activities of the working group shall be funded from within existing financial resources, but invite Member States to make voluntary contributions to fund the activities of the working group, including the costs of participation of their own experts appointed to it.

B. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

2. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.4, it is the understanding of the Secretary-General that the intergovernmental working group of 25 experts would serve in their individual capacity and would thus be entitled to travel and subsistence at the expense of the Organization.

3. The Secretary-General would convene, in early 1995, two sessions for a total period of four weeks in order that the expert group could study and examine all aspects of the implementation of the principle of capacity to pay, as the fundamental criterion in determining the scale of assessments for contribution to the regular budget. The views of Member States would be sought, as appropriate, as well as the cooperation of existing relevant intergovernmental institutions, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Necessary documentation and services would be provided to the working group.

C. Additional requirements for 1994-1995

4. It is estimated that should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.5/49/L.4, the total requirements would amount to $987,200, based on the following assumptions:

(a) There would be 40 meetings of the working group during the four-week period, with two meetings a day;

(b) Interpretation and documentation would be provided in all languages of the General Assembly;

(c) For each meeting, there would be 2 documents consisting of 25 pages of pre-session documentation, 10 documents consisting of 10 pages each of in-session documentation and 1 document consisting of a total of 25 pages of post-session documentation.

5. These requirements may be broken down as follows:

	United States dollars
Travel and subsistence of participants to meetings	442 000
Conference-servicing requirements	545 200

D. Potential for absorption

6. As requested in operative paragraph 5 of the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would endeavour to meet the costs of servicing the session of the working group and the participation of the experts in the session of the working group from within existing financial resources. Since no provisions have been made in the programme budget for the 1994-1995 biennium, however, for the travel and subsistence of the experts appointed to the working group, the extent to which these costs could be met, will be determined at the end of the 1994-1995 biennium. The Secretary-General would welcome, therefore, voluntary contributions from Member States to fund the activities of the working group, including the costs of participation of their own experts appointed to it. A trust fund will be established for that purpose. In respect of conference-servicing requirements, it is anticipated that the session of the working group will be added to the calendar of conferences. The extent to which the

Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1994-1995. However, provisions are made under section 25 of the programme budget for 1994-1995, not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years.

E. Indication of additional requirements

7. Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution contained in document A/C.5/49/L.4, no additional appropriation would be required at this stage.